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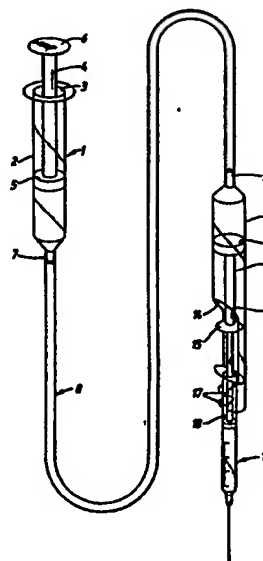
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Adaptor for injection syringe.

Two handed control of the injection of for example insulin is made possible by use of a remote drive adaptor for an injection syringe which comprises hand held drive means (1) connected to a usually disposable injection syringe (16) via a hydraulic/mechanical linkage comprising a piston (4) in a housing (2) displacing fluid through tubing (8) to a plunger (11) for mechanically actuating the syringe (16) which is held by the patient at the location of injection.



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ADAPTOR FOR INJECTION SYRINGE

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This invention relates to an adaptor for an injection (or hypodermic) syringe for use in particular, but not exclusively, in the injection of insulin from a simple syringe which may be a disposable syringe.

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Insulin has been used in the control of diabetes mellitus for many years, especially insofar as the use of bovine insulin is concerned. Currently, there are about 100 million people in the world suffering from diabetes and needing to carry out self medication with insulin preparations. The cost of insulin for use in self medication has become much reduced so that it is rarely a problem insofar as the treatment of patients is concerned.

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The main problem is that insulin can only be administered by injection and this must be done daily.

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Another problem arises in respect of the area in which injection is to take place. This should be as large as possible in order to decrease the possibility of rejection and of local side effects of insulin. It is common practice for the patient to be taught to inject himself subcutaneously either in the abdomen or on the front of the thigh. Intramuscular and intravenous injection is also possible, but generally considered to be less suitable for self administration.

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Many instruments have been invented to help patients inject themselves subcutaneously. These instruments may be of different types and involve injection in different ways.

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However they all share the same problem of difficulty of control, as well as requiring maintenance and sterilisation. There is a high percentage of failures and the possibility of injecting too large a dose with such instruments, which might be fatal.

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It is generally considered that most patients prefer to use simple syringes in carrying out the injection and the use of such syringes has until now been considered to be the safest, cheapest and easiest way of administering insulin. Simple disposable syringes may

1 indeed be used but with these as with injection syringes
in general there is the difficulty that controlled
administration of insulin can only take place in limited
areas of the body such as the abdomen or thigh as already
5 mentioned.

It is an object of the present invention to
provide a means for enabling self administration of an
injection fluid to be effected by a patient at a wide
variety of locations on the body with there being a high
10 degree of control of the instrument during
administration.

According to the present invention, there is
provided a remote drive adaptor for an injection syringe
which comprises hand held drive means comprising a piston
15 cylinder, whose piston is drivable by hand and on the
downward side of which there is a fluid chamber; a
plunger housing and flexible duct means connecting the
fluid chamber of the piston cylinder with the plunger
housing for supplying fluid from the piston cylinder to
20 the upper surface of a plunger housed in the plunger
housing to act thereon, the plunger housing being adapted
for attachment to an injection syringe, with said plunger
projecting from its housing to act on the piston rod of
the injection syringe to enable its fluid powered motion
25 to be imparted thereto.

This invention provides a simple device for self
use by the patient, enabling the use of a simple syringe
as used routinely for injection of insulin but with
displacement of the point of application of force by the
30 patient to the piston cylinder of the drive means which
acts as a pump providing a hydraulic linkage so that it
is fluid power from the pump which is the agent in
driving the syringe for injection of insulin.

For a better understanding of the invention, and
35 to show how the same can be carried into effect,
reference will now be made by way of example only to the
accompanying drawing which shows schematically an adaptor

1 according to the present invention in engagement with a
syringe for injection of insulin.

Referring to the drawing, there is shown a pump 1
comprising a piston cylinder 2 having an open end 3
5 through which is inserted a piston 4 whose head 5 is of
smaller diameter than the opening 3 and which provides a
good seal against the wall of the piston cylinder. The
piston carries a handpiece 6 which can be depressed by
hand to impart downward displacement to the piston. The
10 lower part of the piston cylinder 2 tapers to a neck 7
which enters a tube 8 of flexible plastics material whose
other end fits over a neck 9 on a plunger housing 10.
The plunger housing contains a plunger 11 having a head
12 which is in sealing engagement with the wall of the
15 plunger housing 10 and is attached to a rod 13 which
extends out of an opening 14 in the housing to engage the
head 15 of the piston of a conventional syringe 16 for
injection of insulin. The housing 10 is elongated to
form two wings 17 which grip the housing 18 of the
20 insulin syringe.

The adaptor is used in the following manner. The
flexible tube 8 is connected up at one end to the piston
cylinder and at the other end to the plunger housing 10.
The plunger 11 is pushed up the plunger housing until it
25 is adjacent the position of connection with the tube 8.
With the piston 4 absent from the piston cylinder 2,
fluid such as water is introduced into the piston
cylinder 2 and allowed to pass through the tube 8 to
extend as far as the plunger 11. The level of fluid in
30 the piston cylinder 2 should be such as to provide a
quantity of fluid largely equal to the space within the
plunger housing 10 below the plunger. With the piston 4
replaced in its housing, the adaptor is ready for use.

A conventional syringe filled with an injectable
35 fluid which in the preferred case will be an insulin
preparation is then attached to the adaptor. The wings
17 of the housing 10 are sufficiently flexible to allow

1 them to wrap around and grip the housing 18 of the
insulin syringe. The location at which the housing 16 is
gripped is such that the top of the head 13 of the
syringe will lie immediately below the plunger 11.
5 Indeed the base of the plunger may be shaped as shown to
engage the head 15. Then, with the housing 16 of the
syringe held in the one hand, which will be assumed
hereinafter to be the right hand of a right handed
10 patient, and the piston cylinder 2 held in the other, the
needle is injected into the body at a suitable location
for injection of the insulin. The right-handed person
who has been holding the syringe housing 18 in his right
hand will have full control of the syringe at this stage.
While the patient is still holding the syringe in the
15 right hand, he then depressed the head 5 of the piston 4
with the left hand and causes the fluid in that piston
cylinder 2 to be displaced to act on the plunger 11 to
displace it downwardly and in turn act on the handpiece
13 whose depression causes operation of the syringe and
20 injection into the body of insulin.

Throughout the aforesaid operation, the syringe is
being held steady in the right hand of the patient so
that there is no movement of the syringe during
introduction of insulin to the body. There will be no
25 shifting of the needle which is a particular problem when
the diabetic patient does not have a steady hand because
of neuropathy. Moreover, no longer is it necessary for
the patient to be restricted to injecting himself in
areas of the body which he can see particularly well to
30 ensure steady injection of the syringe needle and
reliable holding of the needle in the body during the
injection of the insulin. Provided that the patient can
in the first instance manage to introduce the needle with
his stronger hand, it does not matter that subsequently
35 it would not be convenient for him to attempt to depress
directly the piston of the syringe. The pump 1 will be
at any convenient location and an orientation selected

1 which will allow easy depression of the piston 4 with the
left hand. Thus it will be possible for injection to
take place in the deltoid region, the left upper arm of a
right-handed patient or various other locations which are
5 generally more suitable locations for introduction of the
insulin than the front of the thigh or the abdomen
allowing, in particular intravenous or intramuscular
injection to take place.

10 Indeed, by graduating the piston cylinder 2 in a
manner matched to graduations on the housing 18 of the
insulin syringe, merely by observing the depression of
the piston 4 within its housing, it will be possible to
see how much insulin is being administered to the body.

15 Clinical tests utilising the adaptor of the
invention have already yielded satisfactory results. The
adaptor of the invention is capable of use any number of
times although it is desirable for it to be sterilised
before reuse. After a while, too, seals are likely to
deteriorate. For health reasons, therefore, although
20 making the adaptor more costly, it should be disposable
and utilised likewise with disposable syringes. Thus all
parts of the adaptor can be made of plastics material.
The adaptor can be utilised many times until its flexible
tubing becomes hard or there is a tendency to leak.
25 Tests have shown that it may be reliable for use at least
ten times and thus a convenient pack to supply to a
patient might comprise ten disposable syringes with a
single disposable adaptor of this invention.

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1 Claims:

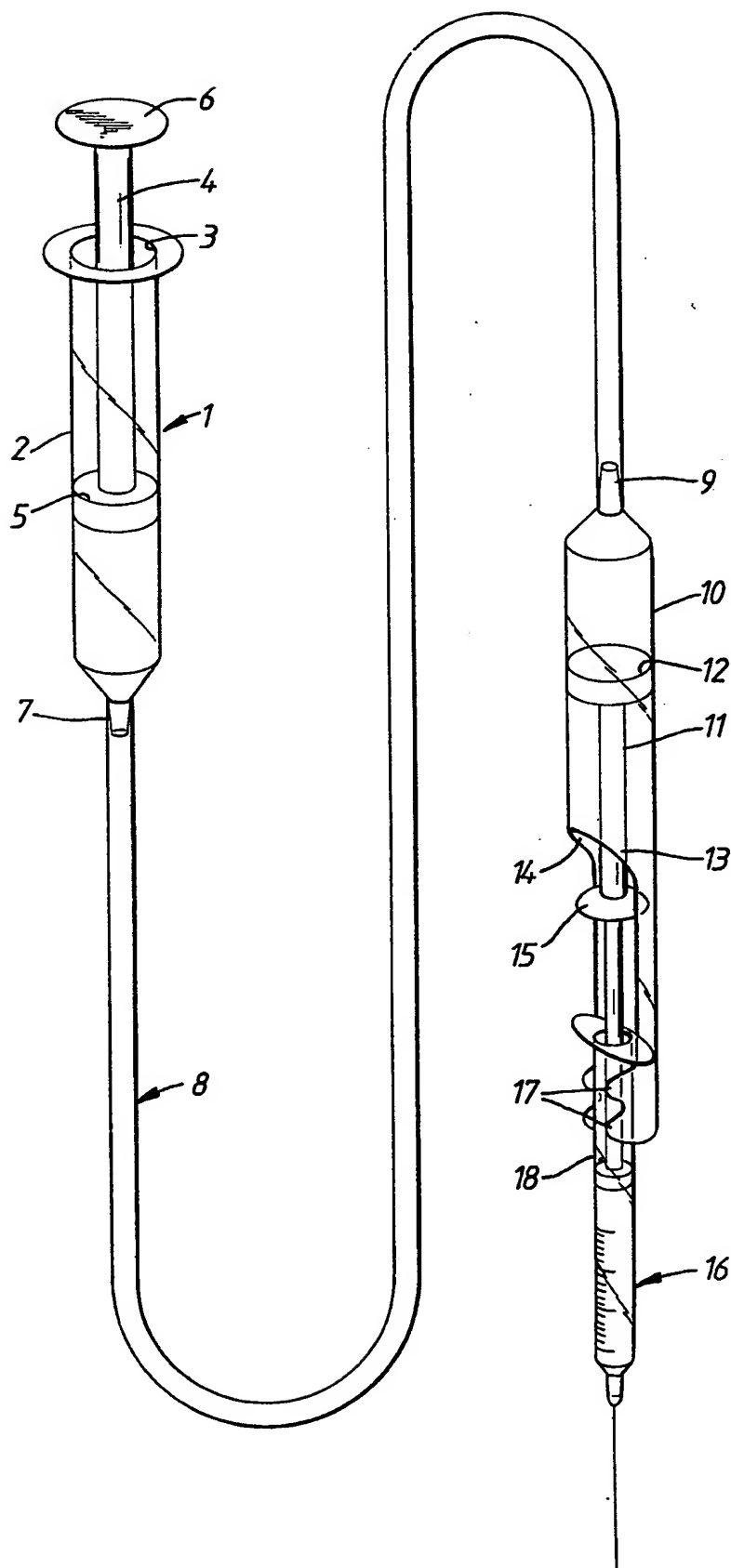
1. A remote drive adaptor for an injection
syringe which is characterised by hand held drive means
(1) comprising a piston cylinder (2), whose piston (4) is
5 drivable by hand and on the downward side of which there
is a fluid chamber; a plunger housing (10) and flexible
duct means (8) connecting the fluid chamber of the piston
cylinder (2) with the plunger housing (10) for supplying
10 fluid from the piston cylinder to the head (12) of a
plunger (11) housed in the plunger housing to act
thereon, the plunger housing (10) being adapted to engage
the piston rod (15) of an injection syringe (16), with
said plunger projecting from its housing to act on the
15 piston rod to enable its fluid powered motion to be
imparted thereto.

2. An adaptor according to claim 1, wherein the
plunger housing (10) comprises an extension thereof
formed in a terminal region with wings (17) adapted to
grip an injection syringe (16) inserted therebetween.

20 3. An adaptor as claimed in claim 2 wherein the
plunger (11) extends from its housing (10) to a position
intermediate the housing and the wing extension (17) and
terminates externally of the housing in a portion adapted
to engage the head (15) of an injection syringe.

25 4. An injection kit for self-administration of
insulin to a patient which comprises an adaptor as
claimed in any preceding claims and at least one syringe
for use therewith, the piston cylinder (2) of the drive
means (1) being transparent and graduated volumetrically
30 to match the volumetric graduations on the syringe(s).

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0 235 905

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 87300585.4
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	DE - C - 361 789 (K.HARTMANN) * Totality * --	1	A 61 M 5/31 A 61 M 5/315
A	US - A - 3 063 449 (A.R.P.SCHULTZ) * Totality * --	1	
A	GB - A - 180 753 (T.C.HERBER) * Totality * ----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 61 M 5/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 14-05-1987	Examiner LUDWIG
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	